

Iron County Register.

BY ELI D. AKE.

IRONTON, MISSOURI.

THEY TWO.

They are left alone in the dear old home. After some years. When the house was full of frolic and fun. Of childish laughter and tears. They are left alone! They two—once more! Beginning life over again. Just as they did in the days of yore. Before they were nine or ten.

And the table is set for two these days: The children were one by one. Away from home on their separate ways. When the childhood days were done. How healthily hungry they used to be! What romping they used to do! And mother—for weeping—can hardly see To set the table for two.

They used to gather around the fire While some one would read aloud. But whether at study or work or play, 'Twas a loving and merry crowd. And now they are two that gather there At evening to read or sew. And it seems almost too much to bear When they think of the long ago.

Ah, well! ah, well! 'tis the way of the world! Children stay but a little while. And then into other homes are whirled. Where other homes beguile. And it matters not how far they roam. Their hearts are ever with their dear old home. And there's never a home like the dear old home.

Where the table is set for two.—Mrs. Frank A. Brock, in Youth's Companion.

A LOVE SET

ONE sunny morning in early July I sat with my sister, Lady Emily, by the side of the river. Nature had donned her summer dress the river flowed silently away between banks in green dresses, trimmed with rushes, among which the water diamonds sparkled in the sunshine. Great trees hung loving over the clear water, gazing at their fiery mirrored in its depths, as if they would never tire of admiring themselves in their beautiful summer clothing. This is Lady Emily's description of the scene. I was busy fishing. There seemed no one in the world but ourselves and the flies.

"Where is Tommy this morning?" I inquired, rescuing my hook from the interior of a misguided fish. Emily emerged from a parasol, behind which she had retreated during the operation. She said I reminded her of Nero on such occasions.

"I have sent him into the village to do some shopping for me," she explained.

I whistled softly.

"Three miles to the heat! Great is the power of love,"

"I am a little worried about him," said Emily.

"Oh, he'll be all right. Ice applied to the head works wonders," I remarked, cheerfully.

"It's not that; but—I believe he is going to propose to her," I said, judiciously.

"His feelings when he returns from the village, very hot and tired, will be rather those of hatred of the tyrant who sent him on such a journey."

"I shall mix him some good oatmeal water."

"And add insult to injury."

"He says he likes it."

"Then probably he will propose. Matters seem to have gone far."

"But it will upset everything if he does," said Emily, plaintively.

"Why?" I inquired.

"Because—it's impossible of course and he'll go away, and I shall be without anyone to—to fetch things from the village."

"Shall I awaken the echoes of the past?" said I, presently.

I began to count the echoes on my fingers. "Charlie Musgrave! Lord Hartley!"—and so on, until I began again at my thumb. Then Emily interposed.

"You dare!" she said.

For a time a neighboring cuckoo monopolized the conversation.

Then Emily said: "There's Tommy."

A white figure was crossing a bridge a little way higher up the river. There was a weariness in his gait that went to my heart, and I seemed to feel in myself the torture of thirst that must possess him.

"You are going to meet him?" I inquired, seeing Emily rise.

"Yes," she replied, giving herself that wonderful little shake with which a woman can banish all disorder from her attire.

Returning home in the cool of the evening, I observed a letter lying on the table addressed to Emily in a hand unmistakably masculine. I was informed that she was out, also that Mrs. Boyton was out. I drew my conclusions, and, knowing the favorite haunts of my sister, I took the letter and went out in quest of them. I found them sitting together under the trees, watching the fish rising at the flies. At least, that is what they said they were doing.

"I hope I am not intruding," said I.

"Oh, no!" said Emily.

"Certainly not—very pleased—lovely evening—warm!" muttered Tommy, heartily.

"I fancied he was not quite sincere, and proceeded to offer one of my best cigars, as a proposition. I lit another myself, and we sat in silence for many minutes. The air was intensely still; the blue smoke wreathed upward, and hung in miniature clouds over our heads, to the great discomfort of the neighboring flies.

"Do you want the boat this evening?" inquired Tommy, abruptly.

"No."

"Will you come on the river?" he asked of Emily.

She assented, and, as they rose to go, I remembered my mission and produced the letter.

"For you, Emily," I said, giving it to her. "I think from the writing it is from—er—well—you know!"

There was an infinite subtlety of suggestion in my voice; I rejoiced in my diplomacy.

But Emily glared at me.

"Yes, certainly I know!" she said.

"Dolly Harwood promised to write to me this week from Paris."

Now the postmark said the letter came from London. They departed, but not before Emily had hurled at me, in an intense whisper, the word "Silly!"

I lit a fresh cigar, and walked back to the garden. Sitting in the garden, some two hours later, Lady Emily joined me. Tommy, she told me, was putting the boat away.

"I wonder if you will ever learn to be sensible?" she remarked, sinking into a chair at my side.

"I am getting very old," I replied, shuddering.

"Oh, you are bald, I know!" said Emily, with cruel bluntness, "but why did you give me that letter and behave so foolishly before Tommy?"

"I did it for the best. I thought that—that—he would think."

"Poor fellow!" she said, gently. "I suppose you can't help it, yet it seems incredible. Why, she continued, 'you drove him to desperation and he's proposed!'"

"Forgive me!" I implored. "I suppose you refused him?"

"Why should you suppose so?" Emily asked, with some asperity.

"You told me you would."

"Well, I haven't—not definitely. I have promised to give him an answer at the end of the week."

And presently she added, softly: "He's awfully nice, you know."

After all, a girl manages these things better for herself. All went smoothly for three days. I fished; Emily and Tommy—well, I cannot say exactly what they did. I did not see much of them.

But on Thursday morning Emily came to me with a letter in her hand and consternation in her face.

"Johnny!" she said, "Sorrill is coming down."

I whistled.

"It's awful!" said Emily.

"The situation is certainly critical."

"I asked him to wait a month for my answer, and it's upon Saturday."

"—and Tommy?"

"He's up on Saturday, too."

"You have a couple of days in which to make your decision."

On the Saturday afternoon she decided the matter in a manner eminently characteristic of her sex. She told me that the two suitors would do better for her hand in the tennis court.

The arrangement was not made verbally, she explained, but—well, they knew. And there, in the intense heat of the July sun, these two unfortunates ran about the lawn, dodging and hitting, and making themselves scarce, dripping, and unpleasant to the eyes.

My sister and I watched them from under the cool shade of the trees

"SHALL I AWAKEN THE ECHOES OF THE PAST?"

Emily eating huge quantities of ice cream to steady her nerves. But Tommy was hopelessly outplayed. Five—love, 40—15; the ball flew from Sorrell's racket into the corner where Tommy was not, and the game was over. The duellists approached, and were given oatmeal water to drink. In the general conversation that followed Tommy seemed depressed, but Sorrell's spirits were high. He had a noisy, self-assertive manner at times which jarred on me excessively.

After dinner, I sat smoking in the garden. Emily came to me, holding her hand behind her.

"Which hand will you have?" she inquired, dropping me a little courtesy.

"Run away!" I replied; "I am disappointed with you."

She held out her left hand, and I saw the flash of diamonds.

"H'm!" I grunted, "Sorrill seems to have made very certain of the matter."

Emily knelt beside me and stroked my nose.

"It isn't Sorrell, you silly old thing!"

"But—" I began in great astonishment.

"It's Tommy, of course!"

"But Sorrell did the six games!"

"Yes," said Emily.

And after she had kissed me three times, she added, softly: "but Tommy had the love, you know."

Which, after all, was a most excellent reason.—Chicago Herald.

SACRIFICED HIMSELF.

Bismarck Paid a Nation's Debt of Gratitude by Sitting for His Portrait.

It was not in Germany alone that the conduct of the late Elihu B. Washburne, of Illinois, in protecting foreigners in Paris during the siege and the reign of the commune awakened gratitude and praise. The subject of almost every European nation had reason for thanks that he displayed such heroism at a time of grave peril. Prince Bismarck, some time before his death, related to a correspondent what he had done toward recognizing Mr. Washburne's services to his fellow countrymen.

"As the American ambassador," he said, "had protected the Germans in Paris during the French war we wanted to present him with a testimonial. Therefore, I had a grand cross of the Order of the Iron Crown made of a more costly pattern than had probably ever been manufactured before. The brilliant alone cost 1,000,000 francs."

Before the emperor conferred it upon him I took the precaution to ask if he would accept the order, and received a reply that it would have to go to the Washington museum, as he would not be allowed to wear it. As this was, nevertheless, a high honor, we kept the order for some time, and inquired by what other means we could show our gratitude. In reply he begged that I should sit to an American artist for my portrait. So I sacrificed myself on the altar of my country and allowed myself to be painted. The artist, in real American fashion, did a real good stroke of business by painting three portraits of me at the same time."

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

When a musical family resides in a suite of rooms, the key is one flat.—Ally Sloper.

"But why don't you ever seek the man?" "Thanks to the earnest solicitations of his many friends," replied the Officer, "I don't have to!"—Detroit Journal.

Ikey—"Give me a penny, fadder, and I buy me an orange off dat man outside." Heimstader—"Go and make faces at him, Ikey; maybe he will throw one at you."—Housekeeper, Minneapolis.

"Johnny Smith," cried the teacher to the boy who had been impertinent, "you know entirely too much. You will remain in after school."

"Gee whizz!" said Johnny; "you keep me in yestidy 'cause I didn't know enough!"—Philadelphia Record.

"Joppingham Jibbs resists his wife's divorce proceedings like mad."

"Is he still so fond of her?" "No; but gracious! a man who makes debts as he does can't let a rich father-in-law be torn away from him without a struggle."—Indianapolis Journal.

The Joke.—Poverty is knocking at the door. Love, it is perhaps unnecessary to add, is flying out at the window. "Where does the joke come in?" exclaim the young people, perplexed. For all the while the world can be heard laughing brutally.—Detroit Journal.

Let your golf is going to be the salvation of the nation. It is going to make athletic men and women out of our puny offsprings and lengthen our days by decades. "But our ancestors didn't go in for golf." "And where are they now? Dead!"—Boston Journal.

QUAINT OLD-TIME WAYS.

Some Massachusetts Funeral and Meeting House Regulations of a Century and a Half Ago.

Diving into the old records of one of the most charming cities of our commonwealth, Northampton, we find much of deep interest as revealing customs and habits of olden time.

No fire was found in the meeting house in olden time, and comparatively recently foot stoves were carried to church, as were tallow candles to the evening meetings.

In 1737 the important vital question at a legal town meeting was: "Shall men and their wives be seated together in pews?" and the vote was an emphatic "No!"

In 1744, says the Springfield (Mass.) Republican, about the beginning of Jonathan Edwards' trouble in the parish, it was voted act "to pay the charge of bringing his daughter from Brookfield." In 1738 this appears on the town records: "Taking into consideration the difficulty Mr. Edwards hath labored under this year and some time past with respect to his firewood, the town voted that those persons who have not this year brought him a load of wood might have liberty between this time and next Tuesday night to bring each one his load of wood." If there was not a sufficiency of wood by that time, the town then voted, the sexton shall see that the deficiency should be met at the cost of the town.

Later, in 1789, we find in the warrant for town meeting this entry: "To procure firewood for the Rev. Mr. Williams; to choose a committee to seat the meeting house." A most serious business to decide, who should take preference in the broad aisles: "The bigger pew," well remembered by the writer, caused no trouble to said officer, as that was readily accepted by the "colored brethren," like cows in the stable, who went dutifully to their separate stalls.

Not only the living had special rules governing their conduct, but the rules about the dead were very strict, as by the report of a committee, May 11, 1789, to whom had been referred the conduct of funerals, as follows:

Whereas, It is the opinion of this town that funerals ought to be conducted with great decency and decorum in order to impress on rising and risen generation the importance of the awful solemnity, and to render the house of mourning better than the house of feasting. Be it therefore recommended to all the inhabitants of this town to observe the following regulations at funerals:

First—That the relatives of the deceased follow next the corpse, two and two.

Second—If the deceased was a male person the males are to follow next the mourners, two and two, and the women after them, two and two; but if the deceased was a woman, then the women are to follow next the mourners and the men after them.

Third—Those on horseback are to follow in after the foot folk, horses two and two, and the carriages are to follow in the rear of the procession. And it is requested that no person walk or ride on either side the procession from the house to the grave.

Ten of the prominent men of the city are appointed and requested to attend at funerals and to regulate the procession thus recommended until the same shall become habitual to the people. In 1745 the question was raised in the annual town meeting "if the town would be at the expense of coloring the meeting house," and it passed in the negative. Evidently they thought that nature would do it without expense. Not till 1749 were the forts and fortifications of the town demolished and the timber and boards sold for the benefit of the town. Laws were passed relative to the schooling of boys and the amount of wood they should bring to the schoolhouse; girls were of no account in those days.

Heaviest of Flying Birds.

The heaviest bird that flies is the great bustard. In size it exceeds the Norwegian blackcock. The old males weigh about 35 pounds, but when food is plentiful the young males may weigh 40 pounds. Great bustards were formerly as plentiful in western Europe as partridges. Now they are rarely found. They may occasionally be seen on the Danube and on the coast of the Caspian sea.—N. Y. Sun.

ANOTHER NOMINATION

Silver Republicans Notify Bryan of Their Selection.

To Which the Nominee Replies at Length Accepting the Nomination and Thanks the Plain People.

The following letter notifying William J. Bryan of his nomination for the presidency by the national silver republican convention has been in Mr. Bryan's possession for some time:

"Mount Pleasant, Mich., Oct. 11.—Hon. William J. Bryan, Lincoln, Neb. The silver republican organization at its national convention, held at Kansas City July 1 last, appointed a committee on duty it is to notify its presidential nominee of such nomination. In performing this duty permit me to express to you my warmest congratulations and to thank you for the great service you have rendered to the cause of the plain people."

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